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UNIQUE BELLA IS HEAVY EVEN-MONEY FAVORITE IN KENTUCKY OAKS FUTURES

Rising Star is Overwhelming Fans' Choice to Provide Hollendorfer a Fourth Kentucky Oaks Triumph

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017) – Don Alberto Stable's Unique Bella (#22), a rapidly rising star whose three-race winning streak includes dominant victories in a pair of important stakes races, was the overwhelming **even-money favorite** to win the **\$1 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI)** when three days of wagering concluded Sunday evening in Churchill Downs Racetrack's **2017 Kentucky Oaks Future Wager** ("KOFW").

The grey daughter of Tapit, a dominant winner in three of her four career starts for three-time Kentucky Oaks-winning trainer **Jerry Hollendorfer**, had been installed by Churchill Downs' odds maker **Mike Battaglia** as the 8-5 favorite among 24 betting interests in his morning line odds for the Kentucky Oaks Future pool. But her odds hovered at-or-near the even-money mark throughout the three days wagering. A \$2 Future Wager on Unique Bella would return \$4.20 if she wins the Kentucky Oaks.

Should Unique Bella justify the faith of racing fans and win America's premier race for 3-year-old fillies at Churchill Downs on Friday, May 5, she would provide her Hall of Fame trainer with a fourth Kentucky Oaks victory. That would pull Hollendorfer into a tie with **Calumet Farm's Ben Jones** and **D. Wayne Lukas** for second-place in total wins in the Oaks, one victory behind all-time leader **Woody Stephens**.

Unique Bella finished second as the favorite in her career debut, but has since reeled off three consecutive victories under jockey **Mike Smith** by a combined 26 ½ lengths. Those wins include victories in the Las Virgenes (GII) and Santa Ynez (GII) at Santa Anita and her career earnings now total \$282,400.

The only other wagering interest with single-digit odds in the Feb. 24-26 Kentucky Oaks Futures pool was the **Mutuel Field (#24)**, which includes all 3-year-old fillies other than the 23 individual horses in the pool. The "All Others" wager stood at odds of 9-1 when wagering concluded at 6:30 p.m. (EST) Sunday evening, a half-hour after the end of betting in Churchill Downs' companion Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool 3.

A total of \$100,335 was wagered in the only Kentucky Oaks Future pool of 2017, a slight decrease of 3.5 percent from 2016 betting of \$104,002. The pool's \$2 win wagering totaled \$43,998 and exacta wagering rose to \$43,998, an increase from the 2016 exacta betting \$32,922.

The Kentucky Oaks Future Wager provides racing fans with an opportunity to wager on contenders for the Kentucky Oaks, America's premier race for 3-year-old fillies, at odds that could be more attractive than those available on the day of America's greatest race. The 143rd running of the 1 1/8-mile Longines Kentucky Oaks is scheduled at Churchill Downs on Friday, May 5. The race will be televised nationally by NBCSN.

The Kentucky Oaks Future Wager offers \$2 minimum win wagering on 24 betting interests that include 23 individual horses and the Mutuel Field, which includes all 3-year-old fillies other than the individual wagering interests in the pool. The Oaks wager also offers \$2 exacta betting on the 24 wagering interests, with the latter also available in \$1 minimum increments in boxes and other multiple number configurations.

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Other individual fillies that attracted support behind the overwhelming Kentucky Oaks Future Wager favorite included **Coffeepot Stables' Farrell (#7, 10-1)**, winner of the Golden Rod (GII) at Churchill Downs and Fair Grounds' Rachel Alexandra (GIII) and Silverbulletday in her last three races; **Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider's Elate (#6, 18-1)**; **Abel Tasman (#1, 23-1)**, winner of the Starlet (GI) at Los Alamitos; **It Tiz Well (#9, 29-1)**, the Hollendorfer-trained runner-up to Unique Bella in the Santa Ynez; Eclipse Award 2-year-old filly champion **Champagne Room (#2, 25-1)** and **Valadorna, (#23, 20-1)** the 1-2 finishers in the 14 Hands Winery Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI) at Santa Anita.

More information on the Kentucky Oaks Future Wager is available online at www.KentuckyDerby.com.

2017 KENTUCKY OAKS FUTURE WAGER					
Final Odds & Will-Pays					
Friday, Feb. 24 - Sunday, Feb. 26					
#	Wagering Interest	Trainer	Morning Line Odds	FINAL odds	\$ Will Pay
1	Abel Tasman	Simon Callaghan	10-1	23-1	\$48.80
2	Champagne Room	Peter Eurton	20-1	25-1	\$52.20
3	Chanel's Legacy	Lynn Chleborad	50-1	66-1	\$134.80
4	Daddys Lil Darling	Ken McPeck	50-1	28-1	%58.60
5	Delphinia	Wesley Ward	30-1	64-1	\$131.40
6	Elate	Bill Mott	30-1	18-1	\$38.20
7	Farrell	Wayne Catalano	15-1	10-1	\$22.00
8	Ghalia	Todd Pletcher	30-1	51-1	\$105.40
9	It Tiz Well	Jerry Hollendorfer	12-1	29-1	\$60.00
10	Jenda's Agenda	J. Larry Jones	30-1	26-1	\$54.20
11	Lockdown	Bill Mott	30-1	47-1	\$97.80
12	Miss Sky Warrior	Kelly Breen	30-1	52-1	\$106.60
13	Mopotism	Doug O'Neill	20-1	67-1	\$137.20
14	My Sweet Stella	D. Wayne Lukas	50-1	50-1	\$103.20
15	Nonna Bella	Todd Pletcher	50-1	25-1	\$52.20
16	Noted and Quoted	Bob Baffert	50-1	69-1	\$141.00
17	Pretty City Dancer	Mark Casse	20-1	34-1	\$70.60
18	Selcourt	John Sadler	30-1	58-1	\$118.00
19	Shane's Girlfriend	Doug O'Neill	15-1	40-1	\$83.60
20	Tapa Tapa Tapa	Timothy Hamm	30-1	68-1	\$138.00
21	Tequilita	Michael Matz	50-1	55-1	\$112.40
22	Unique Bella	Jerry Hollendorfer	8-5	1-1	\$4.20
23	Valadorna	Mark Casse	12-1	20-1	\$43.00
24	Mutuel Field (All Others)		8-1	9-1	\$20.60
\$2 Win Betting: \$56,337 ... \$2 Exacta Betting: \$43,998 ... KOFW TOTAL WAGERING: \$100,335					
Morning Line odds by Mike Battaglia					

Churchill Downs, the world's most legendary racetrack, has conducted Thoroughbred racing and presented America's greatest race, the Kentucky Derby, continuously since 1875. Located in Louisville, the flagship racetrack of Churchill Downs Incorporated (NASDAQ: CHDN) offers year-round simulcast wagering at the historic track. Churchill Downs will conduct the 143rd running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands on May 6, 2017. The track's 2017 Spring Meet is scheduled for April 29-June 30. Churchill Downs has hosted the Breeders' Cup World Championships eight times and the event will return to the track on Nov. 2-3, 2018. Information is available at www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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